

# Report on Bachelor Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Julie Kristýna Balážová</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>PhDr. Jana Votápková, Ph.D.</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Who is more prone to depression? Analysis of micro-level data of patients with cancer.</b>

## **OVERALL ASSESSMENT** (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

*Please provide a short summary of the thesis, your assessment of each of the four key categories, and an overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.*

### **Short summary**

The thesis estimated determinants of depression among US population with with cancer (National Health Interview Survey dataset) for a cross-section of population observed in 2022. Robustness checks for the overall sample, non-cancer patients and a subsample of cancer patients divided according to when they were first diagnosed were carried out.

Logit and multinomial logit are applied for alternative dependent variables.

An interesting finding of the thesis is that COVID is a determinant for depression among non-cancer patients but does not affect depression among cancer patients. It suggests that once people are preoccupied with serious health issues, COVID does not distract them.

### **Contribution**

The thesis was an empirical exercise, however discovered interesting findings as a side effect. The difference between the effect of COVID on depression between cancer and non-cancer patients is a major contribution of this thesis which may have real-life implications.

### **Methods**

Methods used in the the thesis are appropriate for the purpose. They are well explained and tested.

### **Literature**

The literature review reads well. Julie Kristýna does a good job supporting her ideas with literature. She revealed strong ability in working with various literature sources, particularly in the link between cancer and depression which is not analyzed as often as determinants of depression in the literature.

### **Manuscript form**

Julie Kristýna uses academic English well. Her literature review has been a success from her first draft. In the remaining parts, she required more guidance regarding the manuscript form. The resulting manuscript form is however, in line with standards of a BA student at the IES.

### **Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense**

Julie Kristýna Balážová revealed a good level of academic ability from the start. Julie found her topic independently with little guidance and even applied a dataset which was new to me. During the empirical research, she was not very independent though, but she experienced enormous progress and towards the end of the analytical work, she worked very independently. It is obvious that she has learnt a lot during the process of writing the thesis.

I liked how she admitted potential endogeneity in health status and and life satisfaction and discussed it in the thesis. The thesis fulfills the requirement for a bachelor thesis at the IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University and I recommend it for the defence. **I suggest a grade A.**

I also suggest rewriting the thesis into an academic paper.

# Report on Bachelor Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Julie Kristýna Balážová</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>PhDr. Jana Votápková, Ph.D.</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Who is more prone to depression? Analysis of micro-level data of patients with cancer.</b>

The results of the Turnitin analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources

## **Questions for the defence:**

1. What implications for physicians and policymakers may your findings have?
2. Could you use ordered logit model for the analysis? Why or why not?
3. In the thesis, you explain the reasons for exogeneity of the variable health status, however, from what you describe on page 15, there seems to be a spurious regression problem which also hampers econometric analysis. For the defense, prepare a model without the variable "health status" and compare the results and model fits to the results of the thesis.
4. Why were Covid-19 symptoms not included in the sample of people diagnosed with cancer 8-15 years ago? I assume that 8-15 year ago diagnosis is a dummy variable but the people were asked quite recently, in 2022. I would suggest including it as an independent variable in the robustness check as well for the paper.

## **SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED** (for details, see below):

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	29
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	29
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	19
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>97</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (A – B – C – D – E – F)	<b>A</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** *PhDr. Jana Votápková, Ph.D.*

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** *May 19, 2024*

*Digitally signed (May 5, 2024)*  
*Jana Votápková*  
**Referee Signature**

## **EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:**

# Report on Bachelor Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Julie Kristýna Balážová</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>PhDr. Jana Votápková, Ph.D.</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Who is more prone to depression? Analysis of micro-level data of patients with cancer.</b>

**CONTRIBUTION:** *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

**METHODS:** *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

**LITERATURE REVIEW:** *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

**MANUSCRIPT FORM:** *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

## Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F